

April 25, 2006

Town of Wenham
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of Tuesday, April 18, 2006 ~ 7:30 p.m.
Bessie Buker Multi Media Room

Present: Tom Tanous, Chair; Peter Hersee; Don Pickard; Jeff Chelgren, Town Administrator;
Catherine Tinsley, Secretary

Mr. Tanous opened the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Reports and Warrants – Delivered on April 20 & 21

Mr. Hersee announced that the annual town report and warrant book will be delivered this week on Thursday, April 20th and Friday, April 21st.

Leaf Pickup (Bagged) – Saturday, May 13, 2006

Mr. Hersee said that Hiltz will be picking up bagged leaves on Saturday, May 13th and that bags need to be at curb side by 7 a.m. He noted that leaf bags are available for seniors at the Recreation Building.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Vote to add language to Article 8 - Identifying that this was the last day for the BOS to make changes to the warrant, Mr. Tanous said that the Selectmen needed to vote to add the language “or Overlay Surplus” to Article 8, which allows the Assessors to use the funds from Available Funds or Overlay Surplus to level the tax rate.

After reading Article 8, Mr. Hersee moved to approve the addition of the words “or Overlay Surplus”. Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Continue taking positions on Articles – Regarding Article 7 to increase the total appropriation for the Town Hall renovation and new Police Station project, Mr. Chelgren identified that on Friday, April 14, 2006 the Selectmen took action to support Article 7 and the plans as currently drafted.

Mr. Hersee move to recommend favorable action on Article 7 at Town Meeting.

Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Chelgren noted that Town Counsel is reviewing the wording of Article 12 regarding penalties and enforcement by the Conservation Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Police Department

Appointment of Sr. Reserve – Shane Kavanagh

Chief Walsh was present and told the Selectmen that because of many changes in the structure of the Police Department there is a vacancy within the reserve officers. He went on to recommend that Officer Shane Kavanagh be appointed as a Reserve Officer, noting that he has logged 882 hours of non-paid time within the last year, and is a graduate of North Shore Community College.

Mr. Pickard moved to appoint Shane Kavanagh as Reserve Officer.

Mr. Hersee seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Officer Don Woodbury – Governor Highway Safety Board Grant

Officer Woodbury said that this is the fourth year of Buckle-Up Wenham Week which promotes public roadway/driving safety awareness. He explained that the Police Department is involved in the grant process and receives \$3000 for safety equipment and requested that the BOS declare this week Buckle-up Wenham Week.

Mr. Pickard moved to declare April 16th -22nd as Buckle-up Wenham Week.

Mr. Hersee seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

REPORTS

Mr. Hersee identified that the Town Clerk has requested that the BOS appoint Trudy Reid to the Board of Registrars prior to the May 6th Town Meeting.

Mr. Hersee moved to appoint Trudy Reid to Board of Registrars.

Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Chelgren announced that next week's edition of The Connections, a local paper, contains articles and information regarding the budgets of Hamilton, Wenham and the Schools.

Mr. Tanous announced that on April 26th at 7:30 p.m. there will be a pre-election LWV Candidate Night for Candidates to present their positions and answer questions. He added that this will be televised from the Middle School and although people will be able to phone in their questions, everyone is encouraged to attend.

Mr. Tanous announced that the Warrant Hearing will be held Monday, May 1, 2006 in the Bessie Buker Multi Media room at 7 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. Hersee moved to accept the Selectmen meeting minutes of April 6, 2006, with edits as indicated. Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Hersee moved to accept the Selectmen meeting minutes of April 14, 2006, with edits as indicated. Mr. Pickard seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Pickard moved that the BOS appoint Robert Blanchard Fire Chief through March 31, 2007.

Mr. Hersee seconded.

Mr. Pickard noted that the transition to a new fire chief has been in place for several months and that as a part of this procedure Mr. Blanchard was first appointed as "acting" Fire Chief and has done a wonderful job.

Mr. Hersee said that Mr. Blanchard has proved to be a qualified Fire Chief and supports this appointment.

Mr. Tanous said that he has known Bob Blanchard for a long time and he does a job the Town of Wenham can be proud of and has unified the department.

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Bob Blanchard was sworn in as Fire Chief by the Town Clerk.

7:51 p.m. *Mr. Hersee moved to adjourn and it was unanimous to do so.*